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Diana T Fritz 03/15/2007 03:08:44 PM From DB/Inbox: Search Results

Cable  
Text:

UNCLASSIFIED

SIPDIS  
TELEGRAM

March 06, 2004

To: No Action Addressee  
Action: Unknown  
From: AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI (ABU DHABI 577 - ROUTINE)  
TAGS: PREL, ETRD, KIPR  
Captions: None  
Subject: UAE AUTHORITIES COLLABORATE WITH ABU DHABI TV TO BUST  
IPR VIOLATORS  
Ref: None

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UNCLAS ABU DHABI 00577

SIPDIS  
CXABU:  
ACTION: ECON  
INFO: AMB DCM POL P/M  
Laser1:  
INFO: FCS

DISSEMINATION: ECON  
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: DCM: ALBRIGHT  
DRAFTED: ECON:CMCRUMPLER  
CLEARED: ECON:JOHN

VZCZCADI320  
RR RUEHC RUCNWTO RUCPDO  
DE RUEHAD #0577 0660651  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
R 060651Z MAR 04  
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3386  
INFO RUCNWTO/WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION COLLECTIVE  
RUCPDO/USDOC WASHDC

UNCLAS ABU DHABI 000577

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

STATE FOR NEA/ARP, NEA/PPR AND EB/IPC FOR WILSON  
STATE PASS USTR - PECK AND BUNTIN  
STATE PASS LOC - STEPP  
USDOC FOR USPTO - URBAN, LASHLEY-JOHNSON  
USDOC FOR KSCHEGELMILCH

E.O. 12958: DECL: NA  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [KIPR](#) [ETRD](#) [TC](#)  
SUBJECT: UAE AUTHORITIES COLLABORATE WITH ABU DHABI TV TO  
BUST IPR VIOLATORS

REFS: ABU DHABI 490 AND PREVIOUS

1. (U) The UAE Ministry of Information enlisted Abu Dhabi TV last week to film an undercover sting operation that seized dozens of CDs and copyrighted software at a computer store in Abu Dhabi. The Ministry of Information conducted the raid -- touted as the first "camera ambush" in the Arab

world -- after surveilling the shop for several weeks, and based on a tip-off from the Arabian Anti-Counterfeiting Alliance (AAA) that the company was dealing in pirated software.

¶2. (U) According to press reports, a representative of the Ministry's Censorship Department (equipped with a hidden microphone supplied by Abu Dhabi TV) entered the store pretending to be an ordinary customer. Another Ministry official watched the shop attendant sell pirated software to the "customer," and then signaled to the camera team to enter the shop and record the incident. Local police arrested the shop owner and seized PCs loaded with pirated software and several CDs of illegally copied software.

¶3. (U) Commenting on the raid, Chief Executive of AAA Scott Butler said, "This raid signifies the UAE's continuing campaign against violators of intellectual property rights and its resolve to track down distributors trading in pirated software as well as end-users breaking the law." Under the Copyright Law of 2002, counterfeiters in the UAE face two to nine months imprisonment and a fine ranging from USD \$2,700 to \$55,000. The penalty is doubled for repeat offenders according to the number of copyrights violated.

¶4. (SBU) Comment: The UAEG stands at the forefront of protecting intellectual property rights (IPR) in the region (see ref). This report is further anecdotal evidence that the UAEG vigorously is enforcing copyright, trademark and patent laws passed in 2002 and even enlisting the local TV station to collect evidence against IPR violators to be used in court. According to figures collected by the Business Software Alliance, the UAEG has trimmed the incidence of software piracy from 86 percent in 1994 to 36 percent in 2002 -- the lowest in the region. End comment.

Wahba